



Statewide Employment Services

The Statewide Employment Services (SES) Unit is part of the Community Services Program of the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission. SES administers programs and provides supports to assist people who have severe disabilities and have traditionally been underserved or unserved by the MRC. SES promotes empowerment to consumers to choose, obtain and retain meaningful community based employment. SES provides and/or facilitates long term supports as needed and helps ensure its consumers are paid in accordance with their skills and abilities.

What Services Does SES Provide?

- Information: To help consumers identify programs and resources available; assistance to individuals to obtain needed services for employment utilizing informed choice.
- Employment Coordination: Assistance in planning and coordinating resources to meet individuals' needs in order to obtain and maintain employment.
- Community Based Employment Services (CBES): A range of services including community employment and supported employment.
- Qualified CBES Provider List: To assist in finding a provider near you.
- Extended Employment: For individuals with disabilities who either choose facility based employment or who have the need to develop transferable work skills to transition into competitive employment.
- Technical Assistance: Service providers, schools, public agency staff, consumers, advocate groups and parents can receive assistance to develop or obtain employment services for people with disabilities. In addition to these services, specific grants are administered through SES to augment services or provide ancillary employment related services.
- Trainings and Seminars: Can be arranged for group or individual instruction in any of the above areas, especially to promote informed choice.
- Dissemination of Resource Information: SES acts as a clearinghouse for information about community based employment.

Interagency Activities:

Informed Choice Initiative

This initiative targets individuals currently receiving employment services, individuals who will be transitioning from school to work, and members of culturally diverse communities. The intent of all outreach activities is to educate consumers about available resources, thus preserving and enhancing their right to choose their preferred employment option.

The Informed Choice Initiative has been funded by the Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Program to increase consumers' education about their employment options. SES hires consumer consultants to research available employment options, develop educational materials, and conduct educational forums for consumers and family members. Consultants also advocate for the conversion of segregated employment slots into integrated employment opportunities for people with severe disabilities.

Employee Assistance Program Partnership Network

Employee Assistance Programs (EAP's) interested in expanding their service areas and companies that desire or need training regarding the effects of disability related issues on work activities might benefit from the Partnership. Traditionally state agencies have provided funding and technical assistance to community rehabilitation providers who specialize in assisting individuals with disabilities maintain employment. Through this initiative, SES provides resources to establish a network that brings together representatives from the rehabilitation and business communities. SES assists EAP's, state agencies and community rehabilitation providers in utilizing existing resources to support people with disabilities on the job. The goal of the Network is to give EAP's the information necessary to identify and implement tools that will alleviate obstacles to the worksite and job satisfaction. This information is often presented to direct supervisors and managers, those typically struggling with such issues.

Disability Employment Partnership

Designed as a way for the Commonwealth to improve its ability as an employer of persons with disabilities, the Disability Employment Partnership matches the hiring needs of state and municipal government with the abilities and interests of a largely untapped resource. The Human Resources Division and the Employment Services Action Council created this initiative to assist state agencies and municipalities which are missing a significant applicant pool. A subcommittee, which included a large number of agency representatives, developed and implemented an approach that emphasizes the integration of individuals with disabilities into the present state structure as seamlessly as possible.

How Do I Obtain Further Information?

Further information is available by calling (617) 204-3854 (voice) or (617) 204-3834 (TTY) or send correspondence to the following e-mail or address:

Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission
Statewide Employment Services
27 Wormwood Street, Suite 600
Boston, MA 02210
James Fratolillo, Director
E-Mail: James.Fratolillo@mrc.state.ma.us

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (*ADA*) prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in employment and public services provided by government agencies. If consumers or employees of the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission believe they have been discriminated against on the basis of disability, they should contact the Commission's Civil Rights Officer: Albert Jones, Jr., 27 Wormwood Street, Suite 600, Boston, MA 02210-1616, Telephone 617-204-3762 (*Voice*), 1-800-245-6543 (*TTY*).